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Columbus Shuts Down Franklinton Drug House

Undercover police investigation found evidence of dealers selling crack cocaine and fentanyl from the premises

COLUMBUS, OH—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that the City of Columbus obtained an emergency court order to board up half of a Franklinton duplex that had a history of felony drug activity. It's the 15th drug-related nuisance property the city has boarded up in police zone three on the west side this year.

Klein filed a complaint for preliminary and permanent injunctive relief in the Franklin County Environmental Court against [224 ½ South Dakota Avenue](#), located one block from the Franklinton branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library and two blocks from Avondale Elementary School and Gladden Community House. The Columbus Division of Police evacuated and enforced the court's order to board up the premises earlier today.

“It is imperative that the City continue this aggressive posture against drug dealers jeopardizing the safety of residents living, working, and visiting in Franklinton,” said Klein. “No one deserves to have this level of crime harming their neighborhood.”

According to court documents, Columbus police initiated an undercover investigation of the premises in late March of this year.

On April 12, 2021 officers conducted two covert purchases of crack cocaine from the premises.

On April 15, 2021 officers conducted another covert purchase of crack cocaine. Later that day, police executed a search warrant at the premises. Among the five individuals present at the time, two were convicted felons, one recently had been charged with a felony offense for improperly handling a firearm, and another recently had been charged with identity fraud and had a history of solicitation.

On April 19, 2021 police officials sent a letter to the property owner notifying her of the illegal drug activity occurring at the premises and alerting her of her legal responsibility to abate the criminal conduct.

On August 29, August 30, and August 31, 2021 police received narcotics complaints at the premises. Two of the callers also stated there was activity suggesting prostitution at the property.

On August 30, 2021 officers conducted a covert purchase of fentanyl at the premises.

“It’s distressing to know that crack cocaine and fentanyl were being sold at this property that is so close to several important cornerstones in the Franklinton community,” said Assistant City Attorney Zach Gwin, who is the Zone Initiative attorney for the city’s west side. “We want to thank the Columbus Division of Police for their efforts and hope this court ruling will provide some relief to the neighborhood.”

[The order is attached.](#)

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